IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-16, 18 and 20 as follows:

1.(Amended) A method of data exchange in a vehicular multimedia system that includes an interface unit and a plurality of multimedia units each connected to a ~~an optical~~ data bus ~~configured as a ring line~~ in the vehicle, comprising:

establishing a radio connection between the interface unit and an external unit~~; and~~

~~receiving multimedia data at the interface unit via the radio connection; and~~

~~sending the received multimedia data from the interface unit over the optical data bus to at least one of the plurality of multimedia units;~~

receiving from the multimedia units requests for the radio connection with the external unit; and

coordinating/arbitrating at the interface unit requests for radio connection to the external unit.

2.(Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~said step of~~ establishing a radio connection comprises:

transmitting data/commands over the radio connection in both directions between the interface unit and the external unit.

3.(Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

~~receiving and coordinating /arbitrating at the interface unit requests from the multimedia units for the radio connection to the external unit.~~

receiving multimedia data at the interface unit via the radio connection; and

sending the received multimedia data from the interface unit over the data bus to at least one of the plurality of multimedia units.

4.(Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~3,~~ wherein ~~said receiving and~~ coordinating/arbitrating requests for radio connection ~~at the interface unit~~ comprises:

determining a ~~the~~ sequence for processing simultaneously received requests. ~~according to the location of the multimedia units sending said received requests in the ring line.~~

5.(Amended) The method of claim 4, ~~3,~~ wherein ~~said receiving and coordinating/arbitrating at the interface unit~~ determining a sequence for processing requests comprises:

determining with a random selection criteria the sequence for processing simultaneously received requests.

6.(Amended) A multimedia system suitable for use in a vehicle and capable of communicating with an external unit, comprising:

an interface unit;

a plurality of multimedia units;

~~an optical~~ a data bus ~~configured as a ring line~~ in the vehicle, wherein said interface unit and said plurality of multimedia units are each connected to said ~~optical~~ data bus; and

wherein said interface unit establishes a radio connection with the external unit, and ~~said interface unit receives multimedia data over the radio connection and sends the received multimedia data over said optical data bus to at least one of said multimedia units.~~

wherein said interface unit comprises a coordination unit that coordinates requests received over said data bus from said multimedia units for radio connections to the external unit.

7.(Amended) The multimedia system of claim 6, wherein said interface unit is located at an arbitrary location ~~optical~~ along said data bus.

8.(Amended) The multimedia system of claim 6, wherein ~~said interface unit comprises a coordination unit that coordinates requests received over said optical data bus from said multimedia units for radio connections to the external unit.~~ said interface unit receives multimedia data over the radio connection and sends the received multimedia data over said data bus to at least one of said multimedia units.

9.(Amended) The multimedia system of claim 6, ~~8,~~ wherein said interface unit is situated in the ~~ring line~~ data bus as a separate unit.

10.(Amended) The multimedia system of claim 6, ~~8,~~ wherein said interface unit is integrated into one of said multimedia units situated in the ~~ring line~~ data bus.

11.(Amended) The multimedia system of claim 6, wherein said interface unit further comprises:

means for receiving a request from at least one of said multimedia units, for processing said received request, and for communicating with the external unit over the radio connection to fulfill said received request.

12.(Amended) The multimedia system of claim 8, ~~6,~~ wherein said interface unit further comprises:

means for establishing full duplex radio communication between said interface unit and the external unit.

13.(Amended) A multimedia system for a vehicle comprising a plurality of multimedia units ~~which are~~ connected to one another by a ~~an optical~~ data bus ~~laid as a ring line~~ in the vehicle, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ an interface unit is situated at an arbitrary point of the ~~ring line~~ data bus and is configured to ~~can~~ establish a radio connection between the multimedia system and an external unit, wherein said interface unit coordinates requests generated by the multimedia units, said requests being for radio connection with the external interface.

14. (Amended) The multimedia system of claim 13 wherein the interface unit is situated ~~in the ring line~~ along the data bus as a separate unit.

15.(Amended) The multimedia system of claim 13, wherein the interface unit comprises:

a coordination unit configured to perform said coordination of ~~to coordinate~~ the requests for radio connections to the external unit, which it receives from the multimedia units ~~in the ring line~~.

16. (Amended) The multimedia system of claim 13, wherein the interface unit is situated ~~in the ring line~~ along the data bus as a separate unit.

17. (Original) The multimedia system of claim 13, wherein the interface unit is integrated into one of the multimedia units.

18. (Amended) The multimedia system of claim 13, wherein the external unit comprises ~~is~~ a service center that transmits traffic information in response to requests transmitted from said interface unit.

19. (Original) The multimedia system of claim 18, wherein the external unit transmits or receives traffic information from the multimedia system.

20.(Amended) The multimedia system of claim 8, wherein said coordination unit comprises:

means for determining with a random selection criteria the sequence for processing simultaneously received requests.